

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7979

BILL NUMBER: SB 295

DATE PREPARED: Mar 1, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Mar 1, 2001

SUBJECT: Dog attacks.

FISCAL ANALYST: Mark Goodpaster

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9852

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
X **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill specifies that a dog owner may be held civilly liable if the owner's dog attacks someone, even if the attack occurs on the owner's property. It provides that a dog owner may be criminally liable for unreasonably failing to restrain the dog, even if the dog attack occurs on the owner's property. It specifies that is a Class B misdemeanor if a dog owner knowingly or intentionally fails to take reasonable steps to restrain a dog which bites and attacks a person required to enter the dog owner's property.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000 while the maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail while a Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: (Revised) If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law

enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies. Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: